

[ City of Chicago Letterhead ]

Dear Residents of Chicago,

Many people are still unsure or unaware of the magnitude of the climate emergency or what steps need to be taken in order to properly deal with it. That is why we will have an open discussion on the public forum online webpage **TBD**.

The City of Chicago has formally recognized the existence of a new, more urgent state of climate emergency based on a growing body of overwhelming scientific evidence. It has now become necessary to understand that the world has limited and dwindling resources and that we must begin to change our fundamental behavior now in order to acknowledge this and begin to take the necessary steps to correct this matter.

The City of Chicago has agreed to work with the people in full transparency to address this emergency as a collective and share our resources and knowledge to reach our goal. Our goal is to begin to imagine and create a new world of true 100% sustainability and to lead the way for other cities and towns to bring us into a new truly sustainable world that will be able to support our children for many, many generations to come.

It has become clear to the City of Chicago that if we don't take these steps, there is a distinct possibility that our children or children's children will not have a future and that the very existence of human life on this Earth is threatened. We cannot take that chance.

We will be able to avert the climate emergency if we all work together with a sense of urgency, using sound information and practices. The public, government, churches, and business will need to cooperate, coordinate and make decisions for the long term greater good, forgoing the routine choice of actions which prioritize near term benefits and overcoming the lack of will power to live and work sustainably. Using clear, honest communication and information sharing, we need to work to achieve common understanding, shared trust, openness, and integrity as a means to achieve our greater goals of living and working sustainably in Elgin and bringing our neighboring communities along with us.

We are actively planning next steps within the Chicago City Council. For now, the people of Chicago are being asked to come up to speed on the latest science of the climate emergency themselves and then to voluntarily reduce the amounts of plastics, gasoline, meat, and other resources that they are consuming. At first, these steps should be taken voluntarily, for the sake of survival of our species, but the City of Chicago will strive to make these steps mandatory as much as we are able in order to preserve the best possible chance for the future and survival of as many people, animals, and plants as possible.

Signed,

The City of Chicago